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OR

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For the Evening Fire-side.

One of the moſt diſtinguiſhable bleſſings of our exiſtence, is the faculty of communicating our ideas. To it the pleaſures of ſociety are largely indebted, and without it we ſhould make but feeble progreſs in the accumulation of knowledge. The utmoſt endeavours of a ſingle individual, would extend but a very ſmall diſtance into the profundity of Philoſophy; but conjoined with fellow men in the boſom of ſociety, how aſtoniſhing his attainments.

Converſation, one of the mediums for communicating our thoughts, I intend to make the ſubject of this eſſay. Not with a view to conſider it in conjunction with writing, or to attempt to determine the advantage to either. That is already done by the able pen of the illuſtrious Blair; but merely to expoſe a few reflections upon it, and endeavour to point out that ſort which is moſt agreeable to the generality of people. Converſation may be divided into three kinds, according to the nature of the ſubjects it embraces. Speculative, Narrative, and Interrogative, I think compriſes every topic of converſation. Speculative is that ſpecies wherein we communicate our individual ideas and ſpeculations; Narrative is the recital, or relation of other men's, and alſo all other deſcription, of every denomination. Interrogative conſiſts in aſking queſtions. Thoſe three, thus naturally divided, by the ſeveral objects they aſſume, of courſe preſent very different characters; and conſequently, are varied in affording entertainment both from their own nature, and the various taſtes of people. We generally find ſimilar diſpoſitions agreeing in taſte, and enjoying the ſame converſation; but according to obſervations I have made, that ſpecies of converſation which conſiſts in Narrative is moſt entertaining to the generality of people.—Self-love, which is inſeparable from rational beings, can bear with ſuch converſation much better, than with Speculative: becauſe it has no immediate connection with the perſon relating it. An individual thirſting for fame, and eternally urged onward by the ſtimulus of emulation, can receive ſuch converſation with far leſs pain, than where the ſuperior majeſty of ſpeculation is poured forth with redundant fluency, and the attention of all overwhelmed by ſelf-generated effuſions.

There is alſo ſomething very captivating in many kinds of Narration wherein the moſt curious feel a glow of pleaſure. The relation, for inſtance, of good anecdotes is agreeable to almoſt every one: particularly when united with mimicry; indeed mimicry itſelf, well performed, ſeldom fails to pleaſe; even thoſe who aſſume the frown of diſapprobation, muſt watchfully attend their countenances; or, the leſs deceitful mind will expoſe its delight.

Not that I wiſh to promote mimicry; it is generally a ſubſtitute for knowledge, and always deſpiſed by men of exalted minds. Lord Cheſterfield, in his letters to his ſon, writes thus. "Mimicry, which is the common and favourite amuſement of little low minds, is in the utmoſt contempt with great ones. It is the loweſt and moſt illiberal of all buffoonry. We ſhould neither practice it ourſelves, nor applaud it in others.

Interrogative converſation has very little to recommend it. It ſubjects a perſon either to the imputation of ignorance, or of ſome obſcure deſign, both of which are diſagreeable; but when it is uſed with the ſpeculative, it has a very good effect. It indicates modeſty and a deference to the opinion of others. However the whole blended together, and uſed by the dictates of good ſenſe, affords without doubt the moſt entertaining converſation.

ARISTIDES.

For the Evening Fire-side.

"Be mindful of paſt favours."

Ingratitude is a failing which is too prevalent amongſt mankind. It is of a nature ſo deteſtable that very little can be advanced in its favour; and yet, notwithſtanding, we ſometimes obſerve it even in the profeſſors of that holy religion which the Son of God came into the world to eſtabliſh.—People call themſelves Chriſtians, but how do they obey Chriſt's commands? Inſtead of rendering good for evil, agreeably to the Divine precept, how often does the conduct of ſome, moſt ſtrongly indicate that they are under the influence of a ſpirit which impels them to render evil for good. Ungrateful wretches, unthankful to their Maker, ungrateful to their fellow-creatures, treacherous to their friends, and enemies to ſociety. Were you to do ninety and nine good turns for a perſon of this claſs, and omit the hundredth, the former will be totally forgotten, and you will have the mortification of ſeeing that you have beſtowed your favours upon the unworthy and undeſerving. A certain Poet ſays,

"Nothing but hell could juſt rewards afford
"To rebel angels that deſpiſed their Lord.
"Nothing but hell ſuits *their* ingratitude,
"That ſin of ſins againſt a gracious God."

I was accoſted ſometime ago, by a man ſoliciting charity: I liſtened to his tale, read his brief, and gave him what I thought right; but ſo far was he from giving me any thanks for what I had given him, that he even grumbled becauſe I had not given him more. I was ſorry I had beſtowed a favour upon ſo undeſerving an object.

Man was created a noble creature after the image of his Maker, and endowed with every gift and grace, both internal and external, that could be beneficial to him, or conducive to his happineſs here and hereafter: dominion was given him over all the creatures; every thing that could make life pleaſant was placed in his power; and for all theſe favours the price was, Grati-

tude to his Maker, a heart full of devotion and thankfulneſs, and a perfect obedience to the commands of his Creator.

F.

For the Evening Fire-side.

TO MISS A. H—R.

Though hoary Winter o'er the plain,
Diffuses wide his rude domain;
Though Frost the crystal founts congeal,
And Nature's richest charms conceal;

Though on the spray the drops of dew
Inactive cling 'mid chilling snow;
Though not a flow'r of vernal hue
Its winning beauties lovely blow;
Though vegetation be repress;—
Yet Virtue cheers the drooping breast!

And when young Spring her robe extends;
When leafy boughs Pomona bends;
When genial Summer glows again,
And Ceres paints the yielding plain;

When flung from wanton zephyrs wing
Sweet odours scent the lively grove;
When sportive Linnets wildly sing,
Extatic lays of truest love;—
O! then the heart sincere may say—
"Let falsehood grieve—for I'll be gay!"

Though Beauty fade—and Fortune fly—
And pamper'd Wealth should worth decry;
Though Flatt'ry's voice no longer breathe
To fan departing pleasures wreath;—

Yet round sweet Virtue's placid brow,
A fairer wreath shall Truth entwine,
Displaying beauties dear to view,
To make its wearer all divine:
Though Friendship dies—and Joy deceives,
'Tis lasting bliss that Virtue gives.

H.

For the Evening Fire-side.

"Every one that comes along gives him a kick."

This is an old *adage*, and one however common, that is peculiarly applicable to the occaſion for which it is ſometimes uſed. It is not the uncouth dreſs or the homely terms of the phraſe that ought to ſink it beneath our notice. There are few who paſs ſo unobſervingly through the changing ſcenes of life as not to remark the almoſt univerſal diſpoſition to calumny: as Juvenal has declared,

"There is a luſt in man no charm can tame,
"Of loudly publiſhing his neighbour's ſhame."

When a man makes any little *miſ-ſtep*, or commits any crime or trifling miſdemeanor, that involves his reputation, how quick and alert is the buſy tongue of ſlander to "*utter*" its vociferations, and the "ſwift wings of ſcandal," how ready to waft the news abroad. Little and inconſiderable as the fact frequently is, by reiteration it becomes groſs and heinous. It loſes nothing by carrying, but on the contrary, by exaggeration it becomes enormous. It is aſtoniſhing to ſee how quick, how rapid is the circulation of ſuch tales; with what eagerneſs they are enquired into, and with what celerity they are tranſmitted from one to another; each ſeeming to glory in the *fall* of the unfortunate, and literally "giving him a kick" to accelerate his deſcent. As the humorous expreſſions of a modern ſon of Hudibras, in deſcribing the decline of reputation, ſeem to apply with peculiar propriety, I ſhall with them cloſe this eſſay.

"Soon the rabble in the rear
"Came up and took him by the ear,
"And kick'd and cuff'd him to and fro,
"Then away they let him go;
"And to quarrel they soon began,
"Who next should be the biggest man."

JOE CRIB, ESQ.

Old Sod, Dec. 10.

For the Evening Fire-side.

THE GLEANER, NO. XVI.

There is a fooliſh cuſtom ſome people fall into of telling inſignificant lies upon all occaſions; they are obliged to have recourſe to fiction to appear of ſome conſequence; this injures nobody but themſelves, whom in time it muſt inevitably render contemptible. There are others who ſeem to miſtake rudeneſs for ſincerity, and will ſay the moſt diſobliging things in the world, becauſe as they tell you they love to ſpeak their thoughts; though truth ſhould never be neglected, there is no neceſſity of ſpeaking it at all times. "Truth," (as a certain author expreſſes himſelf) "like beauty, requires the aid of dreſs, and appears the moſt amiable when moſt concealed—to ſhew her naked, would, (in certain caſes) ſhock the delicacy of thoſe you would convince. But I preſume there is a medium between flattery and rudeneſs; we may behave with politeneſs, without forfeiting our ſincerity. The ſo much boaſted frankneſs of ſome people, is as often the reſult of vanity as the love of truth. "I ſpeak as I think, I flatter nobody," are expreſſions very common. If I think *Azotus* a fool and a coxcomb, he fancies himſelf a wit; to what purpoſe ſhould I tell him that he is deceived in his opinion? I might make him my enemy, but I never could convince him of his folly; he might call *my* underſtanding in queſtion, but would not doubt his own. Though I would wiſh people to have good manners, I would by no means be thought to recommend the practice of diſſimulation; ſincerity muſt be acknowledged as the greateſt moral virtue, and where this is lacking, all other virtues become uſeleſs.

Old Sod, Dec. 10.

For the Evening Fire-side.

Impreſſed with the importance of time, I propoſe making an enquiry into the utility of claſſical learning. If the advantage of knowing the dead languages will recompenſe for the time required in learning them, I am a friend to the ſtudy. But as I conceive tranſlation altogether anſwers the end, as reſpects the peruſal of works, I am inclined to think the ſtudy of ſuch languages is of very little benefit. The intricate nature of the conſtruction of language may improve the faculties of intellect, and give a reliſh for Philoſophical Inquiries; but as the formation of all languages is very ſimilar, to underſtand one puts us into poſſeſſion of the knowledge of the general ſtructure of the whole.

The great length of time required to learn thoſe languages, may from the nature of practice be attended with ſome advantages which cannot be expected from the ſhort time it takes to learn our own. And yet, although ſo much time is ſpent, we are not to believe it is in learning the conſtruction of language. It is the pronunciation and the peculiarities of the ſyntactical rules, that abſorbs it. And therefore the benefit reſulting from the ſtudy, is not in proportion to what we derive from learning a ſingle language, conſequently, what appears to me the principal utility in ſtudying them, is very little ſuperior to what we receive from a perfect knowledge of our own.

SYLVANUS.

For the Evening Fire-side.

THE PEDLAR: NO. XIV.

"On hopes immortal fix thy truſt."

We ſometimes feel a ſweet enthuſiaſtic melancholy that covers the ſoul, and wraps it in the contemplation of heaven and hereafter; abſtracted from every earthly thought the ſoul then ſoars beyond this ſcene of ſublunary viſions, and for a moment ſeems to

enjoy the realities of ſuperior natures.—Senſations like theſe how delightful! raiſed by theſe the ſoul becomes as the poet has ſaid,

"Aw'd, yet raptur'd—raptur'd, yet ſerene."

In theſe ſolemn reveries it becomes inſpired with ſublime ſentiments, befitting the dignity of its nature, and ſeems to withdraw its affections from the grovelling enjoyments of a periſhable world. But alas! how ſoon are theſe impreſſions effaced from the mind, as Dr. Young has beautifully expreſſed it.

——"hearts wounded, like the wounded air,
"Soon close; where paſt the ſhaft no trace is found,
"As from the wing no ſcar the ſky retains;
"The parted wave no furrow from the keel."

Our ſouls were formed to taſte higher delights and more refined enjoyments than any thing this life can afford. The pleaſures of this ſublunary world, what are they compared with thoſe of a bliſsful futurity. Lo! they vaniſh as a dream, or like a ſhadow they paſs away. Let this teach you no longer to act an inſignificant part upon this ſtage of exiſtence. Keep the mental eye invariably elevated to the awful ſcenes of Eternity, and

Reflect on this, and think, ere 'tis too late,
How ſhort a ſpace may terminate your fate.

T——.

Jenken-Town.

Selected for the Evening Fire-side.

Why is the roſe, whoſe ſweets regal'd the ſenſe,
When blooming on his moſſy native tree,
Far to a ſtranger's breaſt tranſplanted thence,
No more an object of delight to me?—

Why is the nymph, whom once, with fond deſire
I cheriſh'd as the darling of my heart,
An alien—from whoſe ſight I now retire,
As ſhuns the wary bird the fowler's art?

She charms another with her winning grace,
With ſecret glance lights up his longing eye;
And bluſhes when ſhe marks his ſmiling face,
Her looks, her ſmiles, her bluſhes tell me why!

Thus, when a child, I thought the moon was mine—
Queen of the blue and ſtarry realms of night!
But lo! her heavenly beauties only ſhine,
Enamour'd of the Sun, her orb of light.

[*Mon. Mag.*]

NATURAL HISTORY.

Some particulars reſpecting the volcanoes of the Andes. By M. De. Humboldt.

The chain of the Andes, from the Straits of Magellan to the northern ſhores bordering on Aſia, extending over more than two thouſand leagues, preſents above fifty volcanoes ſtill active, of which the phenomena are as various as their height and local ſituation. A ſmall number of the leaſt elevated of theſe volcanoes, throw out running lava. I have ſeen, at the volcano of Zurnllo, in Mexico, a baſaltic cone that ſprung from the earth the 15th September, 1759, and at preſent riſing 249 toiſes (1595 feet) above the ſurrounding plain. The volcanic ridges of Guatimala caſt out a prodigious quantity of muriate of ammonia.—Thoſe of Popayan and the high plain of Paſto preſent either *ſolfatares*, which exhale ſulphureous acid, or little craters filled with boiling water, and diſengaging ſulphurated hydrogen, which decompoſes by contact with the oxygen of the atmoſphere. The volcanoes of the kingdom of Quito throw out pumice ſtone, baſaltes, and ſcorified porphyries; and vomit enormous quantities of water, carburetted argil, and muddy matter, which ſpreads fertility from eight to ten leagues around. But, ſince the period to which the traditions of the natives aſcend, they have never produced great maſſes of running melted lava. The height of theſe coloſſal mountains, which ſurpaſſes five times that of Veſuvius, and their inland ſituation, are, without doubt, the principal cauſes of theſe anomalies. The ſubterranean noiſe of Cotopaxi, at the time of its great exploſions extends to diſtances equal to that from Veſuvius to Dijon, (about two hundred and fifty leagues.) But notwithſtanding this intenſity of force, it is known, that if the volcanic fire was at a great depth, the melted lava could neither raiſe itſelf to the edge of the crater, nor pierce the flank of theſe mountains, which to the height of 1400 toiſes (8971 feet,) are fortified by high ſurrounding plains.—It appears, therefore, natural, that volcanoes ſo elevated ſhould diſcharge from their mouths but iſolated ſtones, volcanic cinders or aſhes, flames, boiling water, and, above all, this carburetted argil impregnated with ſulphur, that is called *moya* in the language of the country.

The mountains of the kingdom of Quito occaſionally offer another ſpectacle, leſs alarming, but not leſs curious to the naturaliſt. The great exploſions are periodical, and ſomewhat rare. Cotopaxi, Tunghurahua, and Sangay, ſometimes do not preſent one in twenty or thirty years. But during ſuch intervals even, theſe volcanoes will diſcharge enormous quantities of argillaceous mud; and, what is more extraordinary, an innumerable quantity of fiſh. By accident, none of theſe volcanic inundations took place the year that I paſſed the Andes of Quito: but the fiſh vomited from the volcanoes is a phenomenon ſo common, and ſo generally known by all the inhabitants of that country, that there cannot remain the leaſt doubt of its authenticity. As there are in theſe regions ſeveral well informed perſons, who have ſucceſsfully devoted themſelves to the phyſical ſciences, I have had an opportunity of procuring exact information reſpecting theſe fiſhes. M. de Larrea, at Quito, well verſed in the ſtudy of chemiſtry, who has formed a cabinet of the minerals of his country, has been, above all others, the moſt uſeful to me in theſe reſearches. Examining the archives of ſeveral little towns in the neighbourhood of Cotopaxi, in order to extract the epochs of the great earthquakes, that fortunately have been preſerved with care, I there found ſome notes on the fiſh ejected from the volcanoes.—On the eſtates of the marquis of Selvalegre the Cotopaxi had thrown a quantity ſo great, that their putrefaction ſpread a fetid odour to a vaſt diſtance around. In 1691 the almoſt extinguiſhed volcanoe of Imbabura, threw out thouſands on the fields in the environs of Ibarra. The putrid fevers which commenced at that period were attributed to the miaſma which exhaled from theſe fiſh, heaped on the earth and expoſed to the action of the ſun. The laſt time that the aforeſaid mountain ejected fiſh was on the 19th June, 1698, when the volcano ſunk, and thouſands of theſe animals enveloped in argillaceous mud were thrown over the crumbling borders.

The Cotopaxi and Tungurahua throw out fiſh, ſometimes by the crater which is at the top of theſe mountains, ſometimes by lateral vents, but conſtantly at 2500 or 2600 toiſes above the level of the ſea: the adjacent plains being 1300 toiſes high, one may conclude that theſe animals iſſue from a point which is 1300 toiſes more elevated than the plains on which they are thrown. Some Indians have aſſured me, that the fiſh vomited by the volcanoes were ſometimes ſtill living in deſcending along the flank of the mountain; but this fact does not appear to me ſufficiently proved: certain it is, that among the thouſands of dead fiſh that in a few hours are ſeen deſcending from Cotopaxi with great bodies of freſh cold water, there are very few that are ſo much disfigured that one can believe them to have been expoſed to the action of a ſtrong heat. This fact becomes ſtill more ſtriking when we conſider the ſoft fleſh of theſe animals,

and the thick ſmoke which the volcano exhales during the eruption. It appeared to me of very great importance to deſcriptive natural hiſtory to verify ſufficiently the nature of theſe animals. All the inhabitants agree that they are identical with thoſe which are found in the rivulets at the foot of theſe volcanoes, and called *prennadillos*; they are the only ſpecies of fiſh that is diſcovered at the height of above 1400 toiſes in the waters of the kingdom of Quito.—This little fiſh is found in lakes even at the height of 1700 toiſes, and is, without doubt, the fiſh that lives in the moſt elevated regions of the globe. It belongs to the genus *Silurus*, its common length ſcarcely amounts to four inches; but there are varieties which do not appear to reach two inches in length. It is but very rarely eaten, and then only by the moſt indigent race of Indians; its aſpect and the ſlimyneſs of its ſkin render it very diſguſting.

From the enormous quantity of *prannadillos* that the volcanoes of the kingdom of Quito occaſionally diſcharge, one cannot doubt, that country contains great ſubterranean pits: it is alſo probable that the firſt of theſe fiſh which inhabited theſe pits hav mounted here againſt the current. In this kingdom, the ſubterraneous roarings that accompany the earthquakes; the maſſes of rocks that we think we hear crumbling down below the earth we walk on; the immenſe quantities of water which iſſue from the earth in the drieſt places during the volcanic exploſions; and numerous other phenomena, indicate that all the ſoil of this elevated plain is undermined. But, if it is eaſy to conceive that vaſt ſubterranean baſins may be filled with water which nouriſhes fiſh, it is more difficult to explain how theſe animals are attracted by volcanoes that aſcend to the height of 1300 toiſes, and diſcharged either by their craters or by their lateral vents. Should we ſuppoſe that the prennadillos exiſt in ſubterranean baſins at the ſame height at which they are ſeen to iſſue? How conceive their origin in a poſition ſo extraordinary; in the flank of a cone ſo often heated. Whatever may be the ſource from which they iſſue, the perfect ſtate in which they are found induces us to believe that thoſe volcanoes, the moſt elevated and the moſt active in the world, experience, from time to time convulſive movements, during which the diſengagement of caloric appears leſs conſiderable than we ſhould ſuppoſe it. Earthquakes do not always accompany theſe phenomena. Perhaps, in the different concamerations that may be admitted in the interior of a volcano, the air is found occaſionally condenſed, and that it is this condenſed air that contributes to raiſe the water and the fiſh; perhaps they iſſue from a concavity diſtant from thoſe which emit volcanic fire; poſſibly, in fine, the argillaceous mud in which thoſe animals are enveloped defends them from the action of great heat. Notwithſtanding all the reſearches which have been recently made on volcanoes, there is nothing but the ſtudy of volcanic productions that has made any progreſs. As to the nature of the combuſtibles which nouriſh thoſe ſubterranean fires, and the mode of action of thoſe fires themſelves, I believe that all perſons who have viſited the borders of craters, and who have lived a long time in the vicinity of volcanoes, will ſincerely avow, with me, that we are ſtill very far from being able to give an explication, which, without being contrary to the principles of chemiſtry and of phyſics, could account for the great phenomena which volcanic exploſions preſent.

SOCIETY.

SOCIETY! our being's nobleſt end!
To thee, with claims unequal, all pretend:
From angels, or the heav'n inſtructed man,
To the wild Tartar's unconnected clan:
From the vaſt Elephant, or ſavage Bear,
To abject reptiles, and thoſe inſects ſpare,
That wing inſenſibly the crowded air.

Select are thy delights, ſerene thy joys;
How falſely ſought in numbers and in noiſe!
Too ſober for th' ambitious and the vain;
Too delicate for Folly's taſteleſs train.
Theſe, while they ſeek thee in the tents of ſhame,
Bring foul diſorder on thy worthy name;
Who think to find thee in the harlot's bow'r,
Or loud with *Waſſel* in the midnight hour.
Miſjudge not then the philoſophic mind,
Deaf to thy call, to thy endearments blind;
Since not thyſelf the wiſe, retir'd, diſclaim,
But that vain phantom which uſurps thy name.

[*R. Cambridge's Works.*]

Selected for the Evening Fire-side.

The following account of a new diſcovered iſland in the South Sea, is extracted from two letters of Capt. Von Kruſenſtern, commander of the Ruſſian Expedition to Japan, and dated July 19th, and Aug. 20th, 1804.

The account of the iſland of Nukahiva, reſpecting the nature and inhabitants of which nothing has hitherto been publiſhed, is the only thing new that you can expect. The Sandwich iſlands are too well known for me to regret having been prevented by want of time from touching at them. On the 6th of May early in the morning we came in ſight of the New-Marqueſas, the largeſt of theſe iſlands, and that to which we properly ſteered, which in the language of the natives is called Nukahiva, we ſaw towards evening.

On the 7th at noon we were pretty near the ſhore. Our expectation was on the ſtretch as we approached it, but no canoe appeared; which was rather a diſappointment, as, according to accounts of all navigators, theſe natives venture a great way out to ſea. At length two boats were diſpatched to explore the bay of AnnaMaria, ſo called by Hergeſt. When theſe boats were about a verſt diſtant from us, we obſerved a canoe making towards them. Our expectation was now at its height: we ſaw the canoe approach the firſt boat, and in a few minutes both of them rowed off together: our boat proceeded forwards, and the canoe, which ſteered for the ſhip, approached the ſecond boat. We could now plainly perceive the natives, one of whom, of a ſomewhat lighter colour, we took to be their chief. This perſon ſtepped into our boat, and the crew of our ſhip all exclaimed, "the king! the king!" the boat and the canoe then rowed towards the ſhip. We now obſerved ſomething in the water near the canoe, which we at firſt believed to be an iſlander ſwimming. "A man ſwimming," was exclaimed by our crew. All hurried to the head of the ſhip, and one climbed up on the ſhoulders of another. On their nearer approach we diſcovered to our regret that this excellent ſwimmer who had afforded us ſo much ſatisfaction was an outrigger or croſs-pole placed over the canoe, which was not above a foot in breadth, to defend it from being injured by the rocks. When the iſlanders got cloſe to the ſhip, the light-coloured perſon climbed up; and, to our aſtoniſhment, addreſſed us in Engliſh. We ſoon found he was an Engliſhman, who had ſpent five years in the iſland: he was nearly naked, and was tatooed on the breaſt. The canoe rowed paſt the ſhip, and the men addreſſed to us a kind of ſpeech. The index finger of their right hand was always ſtretched out, and they moved it towards us nearly in the ſame manner as when a perſon threatens. Mr. Roberts, for ſuch was the Engliſhman's name, informed us that this motion was an aſſurance of friendſhip.

At length one of the natives in the canoe took courage and clambered up the ſide of

the ſhip: he was the king's brother; was exceedingly timid, ſat down at the Engliſhman's feet, graſped one of his legs, looked round with great fear, and appeared to be exceedingly aſhamed. He was followed by another. We endeavoured to inſpire him with courage; patted him, and called him our *tayo*, firmly believing that this word ſignified friend; but this was found afterwards to be a miſtake. Their attention was much attracted by our fowls, and ſome papajays from Brazil: they ſquatted down before them with their mouths wide open. Theſe people have limbs remarkably pliable. Very old men will often ſit down on the ground without ever aſſiſting themſelves in the leaſt with their hands. They do not ſtretch out their legs when they ſit, but ſquat down with their knees bent like young children: this may be in ſome meaſure owing to the frequent uſe of coco-nut oil, with which they beſmear their ſkin to keep it ſoft and pliable.

Towards noon we came to anchor in Anna Maria Bay, at the diſtance of about a verſt from the neareſt ſhore: which was a barren rock, while that on the other ſide about twice the diſtance, was covered with beautiful trees, and exhibited a moſt charming proſpect, eſpecially to people who for thirteen weeks had not ſeen land. We now ſaw two groupes which had the appearance of water-fowl, not far from the inhabited part of the coaſt. As they approached us we perceived them to be natives; and among them were ſome ſmall children, who ſometimes laid hold of their ſtrongers neighbour with one hand, again let them go, and continued ſwimming alone. They ſurrounded the ſhip, and their number gradually increaſed, till the whole place ſwarmed with them: they ſeemed highly gratified, kept conſtantly laughing, and did every thing in their power, by geſtures and tricks of every kind, to attract our attention; they threw themſelves into all poſitions: when a piece of coco-nut was thrown at one of them from the ſhip, or when any of the ſailors ſpat upon them, the aſtoniſhed ſavage immediately became an object of laughter to the reſt. The natives brought us coco-nuts, bread-fruit and bananoes: when any of them had obtained, as the price of their wares, a ſmall piece of iron, or an old nail, they burſt out into an immoderate fit of laughter; the reaſon of which, as appeared, was, that they thought we had been moſt egregiouſly cheated: when they received nails from us they ſtuck them into the laps of their ears, the holes in which were ſo ſuſceptible of extenſion, that they did not ſeem to be incommoded by a large ruſty nail.

While we lay at anchor, the chief of the bay, Tapeka Ketenue, came to us in a canoe, and among his retinue was a Frenchman: this perſon was left here by an American whaler, and had not only his body, but a great part of his face tatooed. The perſon called the chief or king, though that title did not ſeem at all ſuited to him, was a man of about forty years of age, tatooed over his whole body, except on the palms of the hands and the ſoles of the feet: he viewed his corpulent perſon with great ſatisfaction in the captain's looking-glaſs, and was highly delighted with the preſents which he received.

Next day, the 8th, we went on ſhore; we were all armed; and the ſailors, who had muſkets, piſtols, and ſabres, kept the natives in awe. Having landed with great difficulty, on account of the ſtrong ſurf, the people ſurrounded us with every token of joy: they ran round us ſinging and dancing, while Ketenue's paternal uncle, who however was called his father, kept them in order with a long pole, but without ever ſtriking any of them. We entered Ketenue's houſe, and ſaw his whole family, conſiſting of his wife and daughters: he then conducted us into another houſe adjacent; the place on which this houſe ſtood was elevated, and paved with ſtones. We here remained unmoleſted, and regaled with the kernel of the coco-nut, and had ſome of its liquor to drink: Ketenue often pad us a viſit, and always received a preſent.

In regard to the perſons of the natives; the women are ſmall and low of ſtature, their arms proportionally thin, and their legs thick and clumſy. Many came on board our ſhip of the age of nine or ten years, who were married; they were not much tatooed, and only on the arms and ſhoulders. The males are very fine men, of a good ſtature, and have well proportioned limbs: though they do not exhibit prominent and athletic muſcles, and their arms are rather like thoſe of a well made woman, they gave proofs of very great ſtrength. They ornament themſelves in the moſt romantic manner: many of them have a circle of feathers around their head, or of ſwine's teeth ſtrung on a cord, on their toes and fingers: feathers, or ſmall bunches of human hair, and other kinds of ornaments around their neck. The natives, in general, go entirely naked.

Their chief food is bread-fruit, which to me did not appear ſavoury, but it was then unripe; the tree has a good deal of ſimilarity to the wild cheſnut. They eat alſo bananas, coco-nuts, yams, pork, fiſh, and human fleſh. Some years when other proviſion is ſcarce, many of them kill their wives or children, and eat them; others undertake an excurſion againſt the enemy, and as ſoon as they diſcover any of them, whether men, women or children, they immediately attack them, carry them off and devour them, and even when there is no great ſcarcity they make theſe excurſions, becauſe they conſider human fleſh as a delicacy, and prefer it to that of hogs: they fight alſo battles in which one party is regularly pitched againſt the other: their weapons are ſlings, lances and clubs: as ſoon as a couple have fallen on each ſide, the battle immediately ceaſes, becauſe ſomething has been obtained to eat; ſuch are the natives of the South Sea iſlands, ſo celebrated for their mildneſs and humanity, and ſhews the folly of conſidering the man of nature, as he is called, as better and more benevolent than the man who has been civilized. Fortunately we had no diſagreeable diſputes with them, as they feared us on account of our fire-arms.

Theſe iſlanders ſpend their time in a ſtate of indolence, and employ themſelves chiefly in dancing or ornamenting their perſons; none of them have, properly ſpeaking, any particular occupation. When we gave any of them work to perform, it was a kind of feſtival to them: they dragged away for us the wood we had cut down; but were moſt uſeful in filling the water-caſks; what it required ſix of our ſailors to accompliſh, one of thoſe natives would do with eaſe, they would convey large caſks through the breakers; when a wave came and theatened to daſh the caſk and man to pieces on the ſhore, the latter dived into the water, forcing down the cask along with him, ſo that the wave paſſed over both; after which the iſlander ſwam on quietly as before: by repeating this manouvre he ſoon arrived with the cask at our boat. The piece of iron which he obtained as a reward for this ſervice, he ſhewed to his companions on the ſhore, who then burſt out into a loud laughter alſo. Their expertneſs in ſwimming is remarkable: many of them ſwam off early in a morning to the ſhip, with their forenoon's repaſt, conſiſting of coco-nuts which they ate in the water, and returned on ſhore late in the evening. Others carried in their hands various articles, which they wiſhed to barter with us, or which they had procured from us: theſe they held up, and ſwam for ſe-

veral hours merely with their feet. The iſland is exceedingly mountainous, the plains very fertile. The iſlanders are addicted to various ſuperſtitions, but theſe being ſimilar to thoſe of the other iſlands in theſe ſeas, I will not trouble you with a deſcription of them. By an accident I loſt a great many papers, among which were ſome further obſervations I had collected during my ſtay there, which I offer as an apology for preſenting you only with fragments.

THE MISANTHROPE.

Welcome thou blasting storm!
That, bursting, wrecks the peasant's humble hope,
Thou shew'st me nature in congenial form,
And rend'st the world to joy a Misantrope.

Each fire-flash transport gives,
And dark delight each thundering peal inspires;
It seems if hell was swallowing all that lives,
And gulphing Nature in eternal fires.

Yet once this bosom glow'd
With ev'ry generous impulse youth can raise,
Fresh blooming Hope illum'd life's sombre road,
And smiling pleasures seem'd to court my ways.

But soon the tempest's gloom
In leaden clouds enwrapt each joy-gilt scene;
Smooth fawning Treachery lur'd me to my doom,
And stamp'd my curse on all the sons of men!

Power of the blasting storms!
Pour on each mortal's head the Lightning's rage!
Give Nature to her elemental forms,
And blot the world from thy recording page!

From the Virginia Herald.

CLEVES, March 13, 1806.

Principles in Agriculture, leading to the improvement of land, by the mode of culture, ſimply, and the application of it to the Indian corn crop.

The Sun may be conſidered as the great agent of vegetation; the air may be ſaid to be the ſtore houſe of elements, adapted under the laws of affinities to prepare the matter of earth, and fit to enter into ſmall veſſels, appointed to take in the nutriment of plants. Thoſe agencies can only perform their appropriate functions when admitted into the ſoil; which is the grand purpoſe of culture to effect, and of man to apply it in the moſt efficacious way to obtain the end: that way will be found to be the beſt, which moſt promotes the abſorption of heat, and the intraction of air.

The point of reflection is repulſive to heat, and concentrating it at the ſurface, the air there is rendered too ſubtile to be drawn by the appropriate organs of the earth.—This point is known to be formed by a level ſtate of the ſurface, preſenting to the ſun at the right with his rays. As the angle is made to incline obliquely, the rate of heat immediately on the ſurface will diminiſh, inaſmuch as reflection will act leſs: abſorption will take place, and the air, there, will become more fitted to be drawn in.

From what has been ſaid the inference to be drawn is plainly this, that more heat will be abſorbed, and more ærial matter will be taken in, by preſenting a ridge-like ſurface to the ſun and air. Very little conſideration will be required to direct the labor conformably to this arrangement; yet I will aſſiſt with my ideas to make it eaſier.

Reſpecting Indian corn, the operations to the effect propoſed, will obtain other points beneficial to the crop. One is, that the main roots of the plant will be made to deſcend below the furrow, and thereby will eſcape the cutting of the ſhare at an advanced period of the growth—as alſo the ſummer's drieſt heats. Another is, that the plant will be induced to ſtrike out a new ſet of roots to be multiplied, when the demand ſhall increaſe.

To effect the purpoſe premiſed, let the corn be planted at a near diſtance, ſay about 3 feet, the way the plough is to be employed. That diſtance may be regulated thus—when the plough has gone with the bar to the corn as near as can be done on both ſides of the corn row, the earth moved by the mould board, ſhould juſt meet a ridge between, ſo that none of it may fall over intothe other furrow. The furrows will be next the corn, with thoſe ſides moſt upright. They muſt be deepened in the repetition, as the nature of the roots down into the barren earth. The culture muſt be continued, while the ultimate depth, and the approach to the corn is effecting, by alternate ſplitting the ridge with a two wing, and returning it with a one wing plough; the latter to follow cloſe after the former, until the plant begins to flower; at that period the mould board muſt be turned to the corn, piling higher each time of ploughing

Land ſo cultivated always preſents obliquely to the ſun and the air. The roots are eſtabliſhed remote from the cutting of the ſhare, and from the dry heats of the ſeaſon; looſe mould is now thrown in, and that will invite additional roots to ſupply the added demand of the duty of breeding and nouriſhing its fruit.

The ploughing ought all to be directed one way, moſt preferably eaſt and weſt; becauſe in that direction the rays of the ſun will always meet the ſurface obliquely; whereas if they run north and ſouth, the morning and evening ſun will ſtrike on the ridges more at right angles. Situations will be imperious; conſequently the line of direction, here propoſed for the courſe of the furrow, muſt not be *ſine qua non.* The word of the hod may be ſuperceded by tacking on a ſmall ſtroking board upon the land ſide of the helve when the one wing plough is in uſe, which will ſhuffle earth up to the corn.

LANDON CARTER.

Extract from "Humanity;"—A Poem.

Tyrants o'er brutes with ease extend the plan,
And rise in cruelty from beast to man;
Their sordid policy each crime allows,
The flesh that quivers and the blood that flows,
The furious stripes that murder in a day,
Or torturing arts that kill by dire delay:
The fainting spirit, and the bursting vein,
All, all are reconcil'd to Christian gain.

In cold barbarian apathy behold,
Sits the slave-agent bending o'er his gold;
That base contractor for the chain and rod,
Who buys and sells the image of his God.
Callous to every touch that Nature lends,
The bond that ties him to his kind he rends,
Robber at once and butcher of his slaves,
Nor grief, nor sickness, age nor sex he saves;
But plung'd in traffic, coldly can debate,
The parent's destiny, the infant's fate;
The teeming mother of her hope despoil,
And poise the gains of child-birth or of toil;
The sighs and groans which spring from both he spurns,
For life or death 'tis Gold the balance turns.

Selected for the Evening Fire-side.

The manner in which the Aſſes deſcend the precipices of the Alps or the Andes is truly extraordinary, and deſerves to be recorded. In the paſſes of theſe mountains there are often on one ſide ſteep eminences, and on the other frightful abyſſes; and as theſe generally follow the direction of the mountain, the road, inſtead of lying on a level, forms at every little diſtance ſteep declivities of ſeveral hundred yards downwards. Theſe can only be deſcended by Aſſes; and the animals themſelves ſeem ſenſible of the danger, by the caution that they uſe. When they come to the edge of one of the deſcents, they ſtop of themſelves, without being checked by the rider; and, if he inadvertantly attempts to ſpur

them on, they continue immoveable. They ſeem all this time ruminating on the danger that lies before them, and preparing themſelves for the encounter. They not only attentively view the road, but tremble and ſnort at the danger. Having prepared for their deſcent, they place their fore-feet in a poſture as if they were ſtopping themſelves; they then alſo put their hinder feet together, but a little forward, as if they were about to lie down. In this attitude, having taken a ſurvey of the road, they ſlide down with the ſwiftneſs of a meteor. In the mean time all that the rider has to do is to keep himſelf faſt on the ſaddle, without checking the rein, for the leaſt motion is ſufficient to diſorder the equilibrium of the Aſs, in which caſe they muſt both unavoidably periſh. But their addreſs in this rapid deſcent is truly wonderful; for, in their ſwifteſt motion, when they ſeem to have loſt all government of themſelves, they follow exactly the different windings of the road, as if they had previouſly ſettled in their minds the rout they were to follow, and taken every precaution for their ſafety. In this journey, the natives, who are placed along the ſides of the mountains, and hold by the roots of the trees, animate the beaſts with ſhouts, and encourage them to perſeverance. Some Aſſes, after being long uſed to theſe journeys, acquire a kind of reputation for their ſafety and skill; and their value riſes in proportion to their fame.

[*Bingley's Anim. Biog.*]

THE BEAR.

It would be difficult to name a ſpecies of animals, if we except the ſheep, ſo variouſly ſerviceable to man, as the Bear, after his death, is to the Kamtſchadales. Of the ſkin, they make beds, covertures, caps, and gloves, and collars for their ſledge-dogs. Thoſe who go upon the ice for the capture of marine animals, make their ſhoe-ſoals of the ſame, which never ſlip upon the ice. The fat of the bear is held in great eſtimation by all the inhabitants of Kamtſchatka, as a very ſavoury and wholeſome nouriſhment; and, when rendered fluid by melting, it ſupplies the place of oil. The fleſh is eſteemed a great delicacy. The inteſtines, when cleanſed, and properly ſcraped, are worn by the *fair-ſex*, as maſks, to preſerve their faces from the effects of the ſun-beams; which here, being reflected from the ſnow, are generally found to blacken the ſkin; but, by this means, the Kamtſchadale ladies preſerve a fine complexion. The Ruſſians of Kamtſchatka make window-panes of theſe inteſtines, which are as clear and tranſparent as thoſe made of Muſcovy-glaſs. Of the ſhoulder-blades, are made ſickles for cutting graſs, and the heads and haunches are hung up by theſe people, as ornaments or trophies, on the trees about their dwellings.

[*Tooke's Ruſ. Empire.*]

The Wooden Daughter of Deſcartes.

When Deſcartes reſided in Holland, with great labour and induſtry he made a female Automaton, which occaſioned ſome wicked wits to publiſh that he had an illegitimate daughter, named Franchine—to prove demonſtratively that beaſts have no ſouls, and that they are but machines nicely compoſed, and move whenever another body ſtrikes them, and communicate to them a portion of their motions. Having put this ſingular machine into a caſe on board a veſſel, the Dutch captain, who ſometimes heard it move, had the curioſity to open the box. Aſtoniſhed to ſee a little human form extremely animated, yet, when touched, appearing to be nothing but wood; little verſed in ſcience, but greatly addicted to ſuperſtition, he took the ingenious labour of the philoſopher for a little devil, and terminated the experiment of Deſcartes by throwing his *Wooden Daughter* into the ſea.

[*Curioſ. of Lit.*]

BENEVOLENCE.

The depth of ſcientific reſearch may aſtoniſh, and the ſparklings of wit for a moment delight us, but there is a charm in unaffected benevolence, that commands the homage of the heart. Can a being, poſſeſſed of a ſoul glowing with the moſt fervent gratitude to the Author of all good, and fraught with an unfeigned love to every fellow-creature, be ever guilty of an act of malevolence or fraud? Ah no: ſuch a diſpoſition delights in diffuſing happineſs to all within its reach! and ſighs for more extenſive power, only as a mean of enlarging its opportunities of doing good. Far from turning a deaf ear to the plaints of woe, it ſeeks out the cottage of affliction, watches with patient aſſiduity, the wretch, ſinking under the complicated ills of poverty and ſickneſs, and with ſoothing accents, tells of a better world, where miſery never comes.

Is there one, who, wearied of ſtruggling under accumulated evils, bereft, perhaps by death, of every friend who cheered his ſoul with comfort; is there ſuch an one, ſinking to the grave with a broken heart, the ſympathy afforded by a benevolent mind, can ſtill irradiate, with a gleam of happineſs, the laſt moments of his wretched life. The mild voice of pity, can almoſt huſh to reſt the ſenſe of pain, and rekindle thoſe emotions of grateful ſenſibility, nearly loſt amid the waſte of ſorrow. Such is the power of benevolence, and every joy it imparts to another, gives a tenfold felicity to its poſſeſſor; while the want of this diſpoſition, is a ſource of proportionate unhappineſs. This adds a new charm to beauty, and without it, even that muſt fail to pleaſe. Meliſſa, though poſſeſſed of the moſt bewitching delicacy of features, ſhape and complexion, yet loſes half her lovelineſs, when the miſeries of the unfortunate become a theme of ridicule. Though evaneſcence is ſtamped on every earthly enjoyment, the heart where ſmiling benevolence fixes her abode, can never be completely wretched.

Selected for the Evening Fire-side.

The very great fondneſs which the firſt conquerors of America ſhewed they had for gold, induced the unfortunate inhabitants of thoſe regions to believe for ſome time that gold was the God of the Europeans.

In the year 1511 the caciques, or petty governors of the iſland of Cuba, aſſembled, in order to provide for the defence of their country. Hatvey, the moſt conſiderable among them, ſaid, that all precautions would be uſeleſs, unleſs they firſt endeavoured to obtain the favour of the God of the Spaniards. He immediately ordered a large veſſel full of gold to be brought. "*Here,*" continued he, "*is their divinity. Let us celebrate a feaſt in honour of him, he will regard us with a favourable eye.*" Directly they began ſmoaking, drinking, and dancing round the treaſure, until they fell with drunkenneſs and fatigue.

The next morning Hatvey aſſembled the caciques again, and addreſſed them thus: "I have beſtowed much reflection on the ſubject on which we ſpoke yeſterday; my mind is not yet eaſy; and upon full conſideration I do not think we ſhall ever be ſafe while the Spaniard's God is amongſt us. Wherever they find him they eſtabliſh themſelves to poſſeſs him; it is uſeleſs for us to conceal him, for they have a wonderful ſecret by which they diſcover him.

If we were to ſwallow the gold, they would embowel us to get it. I only know, the bottom of the ſea is where they will not go to ſeek it; it is there that we muſt put it.—When we have no more amongſt us, they will leave us to our repoſe, for it is only that which makes them come from their own land."

The expedient was approved of; the caciques immediately took out the gold they had, and threw it into the ſea, at a great diſtance from the ſhore, and returned home highly contented with having drowned their fears with their gold. This timid precaution however did not prevent the Spaniards from appearing ſome time after.

ANECDOTE.

An American Captain was once challenged by a French officer at St. Domingo to fight him at ſingle combat. The Yankee ſkipper had been formerly a South Sea whaler, and, curious to relate, he took the field with his harpoon in his hand, accompanied with his mate as a ſecond: to the harpoon was faſtened ſeveral fathoms of line. The Frenchman was punctual to his appointment, but was ſoon calmed by the words and geſtures of his enemy; for, ſaid the American Skipper to his Mate, brandiſhing his fiſh-gig, "Jack," ſaid he, "when I ſtrike the Frenchman, you ſtand by to play him."*

[*Europ. Mag.*]

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

FOREIGN.

Since our laſt number, but few articles of Foreign Intelligence have been received.—The following contains the moſt important of them.

ENGLAND. On the 12th of October the tranſports with 7000 troops on board, under convoy of a fleet of men of war, ſailed from Portſmouth for Buenos Ayres, with a favourable wind. On the 14th the French frigate La Salamandre was deſtroyed off Guernſey, by a ſmall Britiſh ſquadron. Great preparations were making in ſome of the Britiſh ports for an attack on the flotilla at Boulogne, which from the favourable iſſue of the late experiment, it was apprehended would be crowned with ſucceſs.

Some difficulty has, we underſtand, occurred to delay the intended court-martial on Captain Whitby, of the Leander, on the charges urged by our government; it appearing, that Captain Whitby was not on board his veſſel when the ſhot was fired that killed Pearce, but was at dinner on board the Cambrian frigate.

Concerning the north of Germany nothing important has tranſpired ſince laſt week. Of the Ruſſians advancing towards the Pruſſian territories, various reports were in circulation there: by an article from Twer in Ruſſia, under date of the 18th September, it appears the whole Ruſſian army was then in motion, excepting the regiments ſtationed towards Perſia: later accounts from various quarters ſtate, that they were marching towards the ſcene of action with the greateſt expedition, and one account makes them to have actually arrived in Pruſſia about the middle of October.

The court of Vienna has officially notified to the foreign miniſters, its intention of purſuing a ſyſtem of neutrality.

Accounts by the way of Leghorn, from the ſouth of Italy ſtate, that intelligence had reached that city from Naples, of great and continued diſaſters having befallen the French troops in Calabria. It was fully underſtood there, that a ſecond general engagement had taken place, in which the French were completely defeated: General Jourdan is ſaid to have been killed, Maſſena dangerouſly wounded, and moſt of the officers of rank either killed or wounded. After the battle the remainder of the French fell back upon Naples; and it was even reported that they had quitted that capital, and had ſought ſhelter in the Roman territory. This intelligence is corroborated by Vienna dates of the 24th September, which alſo ſay, that the battle was fought on the 22d Auguſt.

WEST-INDIES. A Frigate and two corvettes arrived at Fort Royal, Martinique, on the 31ſt October from France, having 500 troops on board; the remainder of the ſquadron was fell in with, and captured by Admiral Hood on the 24th September laſt

An armament failed from Port Royal, Jamaica, on the 3d November, ſuppoſed for the purpoſe of making an attack upon Curracoa.

The Britiſh government has commenced the humane attempt of giving to its colonies in the Weſt Indies, a race of free cultivators, with the intention of totally ſuperceding the neceſſity of black ſlaves; and, it appears, that the proſpect of ſo deſirable an event is very flattering; two ſhips with cultivators, diſpatched from the Britiſh poſſeſſions in India have already arrived at Trinidad, and more are expected.

DOMESTIC.

On the 21ſt ult the following melancholy event occurred at Norfolk, at a houſe occupied by one Menzie; there was a public gambling table kept, where a diſpute aroſe between an Italian, whoſe name is Colminer, the keepers of the table, and ſome other perſons preſent, about the game; from words, they ſoon came to blows, when the Italian drew a dagger, which he uſed with ſuch effect, that he ſoon ſtabbed four of the party; one named Davis, expired in a few hours, another named Watſon, died of his wounds on Saturday, two others were wounded, and one of them is now in conſiderable danger.—The Italian made his eſcape, and has not ſince been heard of.

The following is a ſtatement of the number of *Human Beings*, ſtolen from Africa, and brought into the port of Charleſton, South Carolina, ſince the Legiſlature opened that port for the admiſſion of ſlaves, and thereby encouraged the unrighteous buſineſs of dragging men, women and children from a ſtate of freedom and happineſs in their own country, to a ſtate of ſlavery and miſery in a foreign land

Slaves reported at Fort Johnſon, ſince the opening of the port of Charleſton:—

In the year 1804,	5,658
1805,	6,717
1806, to Nov. 24,	8,804
Total,	21,179

Some veſſels with ſlaves, being in diſtreſs when arrived at that port, could not be brought to, for examination, conſequently the number of ſlaves on board were not aſcertained.

Departed this life at Alloways Creek, N. J. on the 8th inſt. DANIEL ARNEY, of Newton, an eminent miniſter of the Society of Friends, in the 34th year of his age.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SEMI-BACHELOR'S communication is objectionable in point of ſtyle—we wiſh him, however, all that ſucceſs in his intereſting purſuit, which the juſtneſs of his fears demand, and to which the maturity of his judgment in matrimonial concerns ſeems to entitle him.

LEWIS'S "Reflections on ſun-riſe" are too *ſublime* for our miſcellany.

E.'s addreſs "to Lacira" is too juvenile for inſertion.

D.'s "*Mathematical Queſtion*" being both eaſy of ſolution and inelegantly ſtated—is therefore inadmiſſible.

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* When a whale is ſtruck, the whaler veers out an immenſe coil of rope, which is called "playing him."